

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] In use, the third suture length 26 serves as a bridge that extends between the first and second suture lengths 22, 24, and that extends across the tissue surface of the tissue being repaired. Once the first and second suture anchors 18, 19 are deployed through the tissue to be repaired and into the anchoring tissue, the terminal, free end 26a of the third suture length 26 can be tensioned to decrease the size of the suture loop 26c and pull the suture ~~taught-taut~~ between the first and second suture lengths 22, 24, thereby re-approximating and securing the torn or damaged tissue to the anchoring tissue.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the first and second suture lengths can be coupled directly to one another, rather than being coupled to one another by a third suture length. FIG. 3 illustrates one technique for coupling the first and second suture lengths to one another without using a third suture length. As shown, the suture anchor system 30 generally includes a first suture length 32 having a first terminal end 32a that serves as a free end, and a second terminal end 32b that is attached to a portion of the suture length 32, preferably using a sliding knot 32d, to form a suture loop 32c. The suture anchor system 30 also includes a second suture length 34 having a first terminal end 34a that serves as a free end, and a second terminal end 34b that is attached to a portion of the suture length 34, preferably using a sliding knot 34d, to form a suture loop 34c. The first and second suture loops 32c, 34c are each coupled to one another, as shown, and each loop 32c, 34c includes a tissue anchor 18, 19 slidably disposed thereon. In use, the first and second suture anchors 18, 19 are deployed through tissue to be repaired and into anchoring tissue, and the suture loops 32c, 34c serve as a bridge that extends between the first and second suture anchors 18, 19, and that extends across the tissue surface of the tissue being repaired. The free terminals end 32a, 34a of each suture length 32, 34 can be tensioned to decrease the size of each suture loop 32c, 34c to pull the suture loops 32c, 34c ~~taught-taut~~ with respect to one another, thereby re-approximating and securing the torn or damaged tissue to the anchoring tissue.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] Once the anchors 18, 19 are implanted, the terminal end 12a, 14a of each suture length 12, 14, which extends out from the meniscus 70, can be used to decrease the size of the first and second suture loops 12c, 14c, thereby pulling the third suture loop 16c ~~taught-taut~~ against the external surface of the meniscus 70. This is achieved by pulling on or tensioning the terminal end 12a, 14a of each suture length 12, 14 to cause the slip knot 12d, 14d on each suture length 12, 14 to slide towards the anchor 18, 19. As a result, the torn tissue 72 is re-approximated toward the anchoring tissue to secure it to the anchoring tissue. The slip knot 12d, 14d on each suture length 12, 14 will prevent the suture loops 12c, 14c from expanding. Once the torn tissue 72 is repaired and anchored to the anchoring tissue, the terminal end 12b, 14b of each suture length 12, 14 can be trimmed, as shown in Fig. 6C.